# PROCEEDINGS

OF

## THE FOURTH MEETING

OF

# THE SRI MULAM POPULAR ASSEMBLY

OF

# TRAVANCORE.

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The fourth meeting of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly was held in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall, Trivandrum, on Monday the 18th November 1907 and following days.

The constitution of the Assembly was regulated by the Proceedings of Government, No. 456/ Political, dated 1st May 1905. In all, there were 99 members, distributed as follows :—

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|---|---|---|
| Members elected for the Taluks ... .... | ... | 66 |
| Do. deputed by the 5 Municipalities .... | ... | 5 |
| Do. do. by Representative Associations | .... | 18 |
| Do. nominated by Government ... | ... | 10 |
| | Total .... | 99 |

The Notification dated 2nd September 1907 regulating the election of members and the submission of memoranda of subjects is published as Appendix A. A list of the members is also published as Appendix B.

The proceedings commenced at 12 noon on the 18th November. Dewan Bahadur P. Rajagopala Chariar Esq., M. A., B. L., Dewan, presided. There were present R. C. C. Carr Esquire, I. C. S., Bar-at-Law, Acting Resident in Travancore and Cochin ; M. R. Ry. Kerala Varma Avergal, C. S. I., Valia Koil Tampuran ; M. R. Ry. Rama Varma Avergal, Koil Tampuran ; Mr. T. Sadasiva Iyer, B. A. & M. L., Chief Justice ; and other Heads of departments and several non-official gentlemen.

The Dewan opened the proceedings of the Assembly with the following

ADDRESS.

Gentlemen,

Under command of His Highness the Maha Raja, I welcome you to the fourth session of this Assembly and I lay before you a concise account of the administration during the year 1082 (17th August 1906 to 16th August 1907).

**2. General.**—His Highness the Maha Raja paid a visit to His Excellency the Governor of Madras in December 1906, and during His Highness' stay at Madras, received every consideration at His Excellency's hands.

His Excellency returned His Highness' visit in January 1907 and was accompanied by Her Excellency Lady Lawley and by Lord Wenlock. His Highness' illustrious guests were, I need hardly say, accorded a fitting reception.

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On the 25th April 1907, Princess Setu Parvathi Bhai, the Junior Rani, was married to M. R. Ry. Ravi Varma Avergal, B. A., Koil Tampuran.

**3. Land Revenue.**—The year was a normal one from an agricultural point of view. The net current land revenue demand rose from Rs. 25,26,959 in 1081 to Rs. 29,06,033 in 1082. Out of the increase of Rs. 3,79,104, the introduction of settlement rates in 7 taluks accounted for about Rs. 1,61,000, the remaining two and odd lakhs of increase being mostly due to the fact that the paddy revenue which, previous to the abolition of taxation in kind, was credited in the accounts at 6 chs. per para, has since been credited at 11 chs. per para, the latter being the new commutation rate fixed by Government. Out of the net demand of Rs. 29,06,033, the collections amounted to Rs. 28,61,775, *i. e.* about 98½ per cent. of the demand was collected, as against about 95 per cent. in the previous year.

In regard to the arrears of land revenue, the demand for the year was Rs. 3,75,514, out of which a sum of Rs. 1,11,282 was collected and Rs. 96,925 written off the accounts, leaving an arrear balance of Rs. 1,67,307 at the end of the year. Out of this balance, a sum of about Rs. 95,000 is said to refer to disputed items. Steps are being taken to enquire into the reasons for the pendency of the disputes, which account for nearly a lakh of rupees of arrears.

You are aware that Government sanctioned some time ago a scheme for the conversion into money of that portion of the land tax, which had been hitherto paid in kind. This scheme came into full operation during the year under report, and from the information before Government, the change has been attended with the most beneficial results.

**4. Survey.**—The cadastral survey of the State having been completed in 1081, the work of the Survey Department was confined during the year to certain special and miscellaneous surveys. The annual expenditure for survey has been reduced from about Rs. 82,000 to about Rs. 30,000, the saving effected being thus a little over half a lakh of rupees. A small and efficient survey staff will, in the opinion of Government, always be necessary in the State.

**5. Revenue Settlement.**—The revenue settlement continued to make progress. In two taluks the settlement of which was over in 1081, the new rates were introduced in 1082, and the settlement of five fresh taluks was finished and the new rates introduced in them during the year. The result in all the seven taluks was to raise the land revenue demand from Rs. 4,53,192 to Rs. 6,13,974, an increase of about 35 per cent. I take this opportunity to convey to you the assurance of Government that the work of the Settlement Department is being carefully watched and effective action is being taken to ensure that its operations are finished without undue delay. A capable officer, having the confidence of Government, is now at the head of the department and Government feel assured that the interests of the people as well as of the public revenue are safe in his hands.

**6. Land Records Maintenance.**—Government took steps during the year to organize a land records staff for the purpose of keeping survey records up to date. The charges on this account for all the 18 taluks already settled amount to about Rs. 11,000 per annum. Government have reasons to apprehend that, in

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